

What is claimed is:

1. A carrier granule comprising
32-45 weight-% of cellulose fibers having a bulk density of less than 20 pounds per cubic foot, wherein at least 35 weight-% of said fibers are retained on a 50-Mesh U.S. Sieve Series screen,
53-65 weight-% mineral filler having a bulk density of less than 65 pounds per cubic foot, and
3-7 weight-% binder,
wherein said granule passes through a 10-Mesh U.S. Sieve Series screen and is retained on a 40-Mesh U.S. Sieve Series screen, said granule has a moisture content of less than 5 weight-%, said granule has a Resistance to Attrition of at least 95%, and said granule has a bulk density of less than 40 pounds per cubic foot.
2. The carrier granule of claim 1, wherein said granule has a bulk density of 25-30 pounds per cubic foot.
3. The carrier granule of claim 1, wherein the mineral filler is selected from the group consisting of kaolin, titanium dioxide, sodium bicarbonate, calcium carbonate, lime, fly ash, dolomite, gypsum, and mixtures thereof and wherein the mineral filler has a particle size range within the range 10 to 500 microns.
4. The carrier granule of claim 1, wherein the binder is selected from the group consisting of granules of superabsorbent polymer, water-soluble starch, acrylic polymer, polyvinyl acetate, guar gum, and mixtures thereof, and wherein at least 70% of the binder granules pass through a 200-Mesh U.S. Sieve Series screen.

5. The carrier granule of claim 1, comprising 35-40 weight-% of cellulose fibers at least 35 weight-% of which are retained on a 50-Mesh U.S. Sieve Series screen, 54-60 weight-% calcium carbonate having a bulk density of about 60 pounds per cubic foot, and 5-6 weight-% unmodified starch binder, said granule having a bulk density of 25-30 pounds per cubic foot.

6. A method for making a carrier granule of claim 1, which method comprises the steps of:

forming a mixture comprising 32-45 weight-% cellulose fibers having a bulk density of less than 20 pounds per cubic foot and at least 35 weight-% of which are retained on a 35-Mesh U.S. Sieve Series screen, said fibers having a moisture content of less than 15 weight-%, 53-65 weight-% mineral filler having a moisture content of less than 12 weight-% and a bulk density of less than 65 pounds per cubic foot, and 3-7 weight-% binder;

agglomerating said mixture by conditioning and agglomerating the mixture in a pin mixer to form small particles followed by agglomerating the mixture in a disc or pan pelletizer to form substantially spherical granules;

drying said granules to a moisture content of less than about 5 weight-%; and

screening said granules to select granules that pass through a 10-Mesh U.S. Sieve Series screen and are retained on a 40-Mesh U.S. Sieve Series screen.